

# Lancashire & District Section



November 2000

## Timpdon on Tour

Chris MacKenzie's exhibition layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" was invited to this year's 16mm Autumn Convention at Elsecar (Sat 30 Sept & Sun 1 Oct).

Several LADS joined Chris over the weekend to offer support and help with the running.

Alex Milne helped unload the van and set everything up early on Saturday morning. He also brought along his two Roundhouse Loco's - a Lady Anne and a Russell. If you haven't seen these two loco's then you are really missing a modelling marvel. Alex has customised them so they look like real loco's that have gone through a shrinking machine! For example, each loco has glass in the spectacle cab windows; they have fire irons hanging from the back of the cab; he's lined each engine and put a more realistic eggshell finish on them - the list is endless.

Alex also brought along several of his Festiniog Railway "bug box" coaches. These looked absolutely superb on the tight Mamod curves on the layout - especially when pulled by Chris's new Essel Engineering 'Harlech Castle' (Chris lives in the hope of Alex one day building him some of these coaches). This makes a grand total of three Harlech Castles in the group - well, three that we know about.

Neil and Sheila Munro also showed up on the Saturday - and purchased a new engine. Peter Duckering had been persuaded to part with one of his Peter Angus Burma Beyer-Garratt locos, "Buthidaung" the smallest B-G ever built. It's a real engineering beauty. Hopefully we'll have some photos of it in steam in the near future, but for those who can't wait, have a look in issue 8 of Garden Rail when it was the main centrefold.

Sunday at Elsecar saw David Wilding and Mark Smith (and not forgetting the mother of the

# What a Wash Out!

## And Not a Single Wheel Turned

The LADS Winter calendar really started with Bill Cook's event, Sun 24 Sept.

To say it rained is a bit of an understatement - there was a torrential downpour all afternoon. Mind you, attendance was still good (considering) and a lot of talking was done instead! (*for a change?*)

Peter Davis, Peter & Sheila Harling, Alex Milne, Chris MacKenzie, Mark Smith and Mrs "Mark's mum - everyone's mum" Smith all refused to venture outside, preferring to drink copious amounts of tea and sandwiches in the comfort of the kitchen and lounge. Mind you, I believe that one person actually looked out of the window at the railway - well, once.

group, Mark's Mum), together with Mike Ousby and Ian Lowcock. Whilst Mike and Ian disappeared to the local pub, Mark ran his original Brandbright "coffee pot" De Winton.

Mark and David were kind enough to stay to the end just to help Chris load up the van.

The event was highly enjoyable, with nothing but favourable comments being heard. Elsecar will always be a more relaxed affair, like a small AGM without the hustle and bustle. There's more time for chatting with friends (and parting with the hard earned beer tokens). I suppose the real pleasure is belonging to a group where everyone is friends and all help.

Whilst all these serious railway discussions were taking place, Bill's neighbours joined the event to wish him a happy birthday. Yes! It turned out that Bill was celebrating his birthday that very same day!

I've often thought that a top quality club newsletter shouldn't be the vehicle for promulgating gossip or revealing secrets. Fortunately this organ is anything but a top quality newsletter so I feel no shame in revealing that Bill is now 77 years young!

All in all, it was a relaxing and enjoyable event which allowed an exchange of ideas. It proved that even if you don't have a run you can still have a good time.

## John Angell's

**John's Grand Opening!** (32mm gauge)  
All welcome - Bring an engine & have a run!  
Sun 12 Nov 1pm - Tel 01772 725308



# We're Now Sponsored!

**The LADS (Lancashire and District Society) group newsletter is now being sponsored!**

Whereas we can arrange the photocopying and purchase of envelopes, the real problem was the cost of postage. Although one 2nd class stamp is only 19p, when we have to post out as many as 40 newsletters every month it all adds up!

Of course we could have charged a subscription, but who wants to keep the accounts? [*me neither!*] It would also have restricted the number we send to association members living in our catchment area, but are strangers to our group meetings. One possible solution previously discussed was everyone to send Chris MacKenzie a book of stamps - but even that was getting too complicated. When all said and done, producing the newsletter is an extra to the business of narrow gauge modelling - not instead of it!

The answer was provided by several traders at the Elsecar show. Some of them have agreed to sponsor our newsletter for a month. For nothing more than a simple acknowledgement in the form of a business card size mention, these firms have provided 40 second class stamps so we can post out to everyone.

The generous traders are:-

Nov '00 - Imp Models	Apr '01 - Locomotion
Dec '00 - JBM Repairs	May '01 - Brandbright
Jan '01 - Essel Eng	Jun '01 - Roundhouse
Feb '01 - JBM Repairs	Jul '01 - Brandbright
Mar '01 - Back 2 Bay 6	Aug '01 - Locomotion

and an early booking for March '02 by Locomotion.

Although they'll be getting a mention at the time, please remember the traders that have helped us. We have to give them our money before they can give it back to us!

## Dear Sir...

With immediate effect the National Steam Tram Museum has moved web site. It can now be found at:

[http://website.lineone.net/~steam\\_tram/](http://website.lineone.net/~steam_tram/)

Yours faithfully,

Colonel Ponsonby-Smythe,  
Patron and Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

PS. Written in the absence of Mr Ousby, who is currently resting from his new full-time employment.

*This newsletter has been sponsored by:*

## Imp models

80 Recreation Street  
Long Eaton  
Nottingham NG10 2DE  
Tel. 0115 973 1125

White metal figures and kits

Send £1.50 for an illustrated catalogue

## Contributions?

Send to Chris MacKenzie at  
2 Curzon Drive, Timperley,  
Altrincham, Cheshire,  
WA15 7SY - 0161 980 7804,  
or e:mail  
narrow.gauge@btinternet.com

## Water on the Brain

**The question of draining water from your loco when you've finished running raised it's head on the e:mail group recently.**

**Dick Summerfield, a member in the Netherlands, was having problems running his new Roundhouse Millie in that it had sudden bursts of power.**

**Reproduced is Roger "Mr Roundhouse" Loxley's reply:-**

"The phenomenon you describe can be caused by water being pulled over into the superheater. As the loco is running at any particular regulator setting, steam passes through the supply pipe and superheater to the cylinders at a pretty constant rate. If, however, any water carries over with the steam and enters the superheater, it immediately boils and turns into extra steam which then passes uncontrolled to the cylinders and causes a sudden increase in speed.

"To a small extent, this is going on all the time but is so small an amount that it passes un-noticed. If an engine is running light or with just a small train, you may see it happening if you watch all the time, but with a decent train behind you would probably never observe it as the sudden but small power increase is absorbed in trying to accelerate the weight of the train.

"For it to suddenly start happening on your loco, and in such a spectacular way, infers that something had happened to alter the normal balance. One possible cause is dirty or contaminated water which causes the water in the boiler to foam and would increase the tendency to carry over very wet steam into the superheater."

Like Dick, not many members seem to be aware about the potential problems of leaving water in the boiler after a run. I know the Munro's always empty their boiler - but are they an exception?

Thoughts & comments welcome!

## Dear Diary...

**Fri 27 6-9pm, Sat 28 & Sun 29 Oct 10-5pm**  
Hilbre High School, West Kirby. Wirral  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)*

**Sat 28 & Sun 29 Oct Bury 10-5pm**  
Holy Cross College, M/cr Road, Bury  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
**Chris MacKenzie's 16mm indoor layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" will be exhibiting. Call him to pre-book a run.**  
*(Live steam isn't allowed at this event)*

**Sat 28 & Sun 29 Oct 10-5pm**  
Armley Sports Centre, Carr Crofts, Leeds  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)*

**Sat 28 & Sun 29 Oct Hazel Grove, Stockport 10-6pm & 10-4pm**  
Jacksons Lane  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)*

**Sun 29 Oct (Sun only) 11-3.30pm**  
Haydock Tote Halls, Haydock Racecourse  
**100 stand swapmeet - cars, dolls, railways**

**Sat 4 & Sun 5 Nov - NEC Birm'gham, 10-5pm**  
**Very Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, including 16mm)*

**Tues 7 Nov 7-9pm**  
Civic Hall, Heywood  
**70 stand swapmeet - cars, dolls, railways**

**Fri 10 6-10pm, Sat 11 & Sun 12 Nov 10-5pm**  
Civic Theatre, Stanley St., Nelson, Lancs  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)*

**Sat 11 & Sun 12 Nov 10-6pm**  
Barnsley College, Old Mill Lane  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
**Chris MacKenzie's 16mm indoor layout "Open Day at Timpdon Sheds" will be exhibiting. Call him to pre-book a run.**  
*(Live steam is allowed at this event)*

**Sun 12 Nov 1pm - John Angel's Garden 01772 725308 (Preston) (32mm)**  
**Bring an engine & have a run**

**Sat 18 Nov 10.30-4pm**  
Lymm Leisure Centre  
**Swapmeet - just trains - all scales**

**Fri 24 6-9pm, Sat 25 & Sun 26 Nov 10-5pm**  
Thornes Park Athletic Stadium, Wakefield  
**Large Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)*

**Sat 25 Nov 10-5pm**  
Rainhill Village Hall  
**Small Model Railway Exhibition.**  
*(All scales, not necessarily 16mm)*

**Sun 26 Nov 1pm - Chris MacKenzie's Garden - 0161 980 7804 (Altrincham)**  
**Bring an engine & have a run (32mm)**  
**- Indoor running if raining**

**Sun 26 Nov 11-3.30**  
George Carnall Leisure Centre, Urmston, (100 yds off Jnt 9, M60)  
**150 stand swapmeet - cars, dolls, railways**